

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9854

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UK

SUBJECT: CCD: UK STATEMENT IN JULY 28 PLENARY

1. SUMMARY: IN JULY 28 CCD PLENARY, UK MINISTER OF STATE
GAVE TOUR D'HORIZON STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, DISCUSSING
NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN, SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY, CHEMICAL WEAPONS,
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, UN STUDY ON MILITARY EXPENDITURE
LIMITATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION CONVENTION, NEW MASS
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DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM OF
ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, AND UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.
END SUMMARY

2. SPEAKING IN JULY 28 CCD PLENARY, UK MINISTER OF STATE
(GORONWY-ROBERTS) ADDRESSED GAMUT OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES.
UK REP BEGAN BY REFERRING TO ARTICLE VI OF NON-PROLIFERATION

TREATY (NPT), STATING THAT THREE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES HAD THEREBY ASSUMED THE OBLIGATION TO WORK TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND THAT SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR ARMS WOULD BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARD ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT PROGRAM.

3. SAFEGUARDS AND NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP. STATING THAT THE CENTRAL DILEMMA OF THE NPT IS HOW TO RECONCILE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES WITH AN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO CURB THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, UK REP SAID THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM AS WATER-TIGHT AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS WHY BRITAIN HAS ADVOCATED THE GENERAL APPLICATION OF FULL-FUEL-CYCLE SAFEGUARDS, LEADING TO THE PREPARATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) OF A MODEL FULL-FUEL-CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT FOR POTENTIAL USE BY NATIONS NOT PARTY TO THE NPT. DEFENDING THE LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP, UK REP SAID THAT ITS PURPOSE "HAS BEEN TO ENSURE THAT SAFEGUARDS AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS OF SALES OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATION." UK REP ADVOCATED OPENING UP THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP TO A WIDER MEMBERSHIP, STATING THAT "WE HAVE TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE BASED ON THE RECOGNITION THAT ALL COUNTRIES, WHATEVER THEIR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, HAVE A LEGITIMATE NEED FOR ASSURANCE THAT THEIR FUTURE NUCLEAR ENERGY NEEDS WILL BE MET." REFERRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL UNCLASSIFIED

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CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE US, THE UK REP SAID THAT A WIDE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED, REQUIRING THE SUPPORT OF MANY NATIONS, SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS ALIKE.

4. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB). DECLARING THAT "IT HAS LONG BEEN BRITISH POLICY TO SUPPORT A FULLY EFFECTIVE CTB," UK REP INDICATED PLEASURE OF HMG AT HAVING STARTED CTB CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND USSR. CALLING THE RECENTLY COMPLETED ROUND OF TALKS "INTENSIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE," UK REP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THE BROAD PRINCIPLES FOR AN ACCEPTABLE CTB. REFERRING TO THE SWEDISH DRAFT CTB TREATY AND TO THE CCD EXPERTS STUDY UNDERWAY ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC COOPERATION, THE UK REP INDICATED THAT HMG WILL LOOK TO CCD FOR PRACTICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AFTER THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF A CTB HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. OBSERVING THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS "A MULTILATERAL CTB TREATY ADHERED TO BY THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STATES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AND NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ALIKE," THE UK REP SAID THAT "IT IS RIGHT THAT NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES SHOULD FIRST SEEK TO ESTABLISH AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES, IN CONDITIONS OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. BUT IT IS ALSO RIGHT

THAT, ONCE THEY HAVE ACHIEVED AGREEMENT, THE DETAILS SHOULD
BE COMMUNICATED TO THIS CONFERENCE FOR IT TO PLAY ITS
INDISPENSABLE ROLE."

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5. SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY. PRAISING THE JUNE 1977
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL
TREATY, THE UK REP SAID THAT HMG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT
THE TREATY HAS WORKED WELL AND THAT ADDITIONAL ADHERENCES
WOULD BE USEFUL. AS CALLED FOR BY THE REVIEW CONFERENCE'S
FINAL DECLARATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CCD EXPERTS GROUP
TO REVIEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THE TREATY
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

6. CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW). REFERRING TO THE AUGUST 1976
UK DRAFT TREATY ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AS WELL AS TO THE UK
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CCD STATEMENT OF JULY 12, THE UK REP EMPHASIZED HMG'S COMMITMENT TO THE EARLY ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE CW BAN. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE UK REP INDICATED, THE UK PLANS TO PRESENT A WORKING PAPER ON NERVE AGENT PROPHYLAXIS.

7. CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS (CAT). SUGGESTING THAT ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT MUST CONCERN ITSELF NOT ONLY WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BUT ALSO WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, THE UK REP MENTIONED THE UNSUCCESSFUL JAPANESE PROPOSAL AT THE 31ST UNGA FOR A UN EXPERTS STUDY ON CAT. THE UK REP ALSO REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR DISCUSSIONS AMONG ARMS SUPPLIERS AND FOR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AMONG PURCHASERS TO LIMIT ARMS IMPORTS, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE US PROPOSAL WILL BE WIDELY SUPPORTED AND LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS.

8. UN STUDY ON MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS (MEL). DESCRIBING THE CURRENT WORK OF THE UN EXPERTS GROUP ON MEL, TO MEET AGAIN IN AUGUST THE UK REP UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING AGREED METHODS AND ESTABLISHING A STANDARDIZED REPORTING SYSTEM FOR MILITARY EXPENDITURES, SAYING THAT IT IS POINTLESS TO CALL FOR ARBITRARY PERCENTAGE CUTS IN MILITARY BUDGETS WITHOUT AN AGREED BASIS FOR MEASURING AND COMPARING THE MILITARY EXPENDITURES OF DIFFERENT STATES. REMARKING THAT FROM 1966 TO 1975 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' SHARE OF WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES HAD RISEN FROM SIX TO FIFTEEN PERCENT, THE UK REP SAID THAT REDUCING MILITARY BUDGETS CAN ONLY BE AN EFFECTIVE STIMULANT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF ALL COUNTRIES IF IT IS UNIVERSAL.

9. MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW). ON SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A TREATY TO BAN NEW MDW, UK REP STATED QUOTE IT IS OUR CONSIDERED VIEW THAT A SINGLE TREATY WOULD HAVE TO BE SO GENERAL IN ITS SCOPE AND SO VAGUE IN ITS DEFINITIONS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE AN EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL MEASURE. NOR WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO DEVISE APPROPRIATE VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

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WHEN THE NATURE OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE MONITORED WAS UNKNOWN. WE BELIEVE THAT A MORE FRUITFUL APPROACH WOULD BE A FIRM CONDEMNATION BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, COUPLED WITH A REQUEST TO THIS CONFERENCE TO KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW. FROM TIME TO TIME THE CONFERENCE MAY DECIDE TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTS TO PRECLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF PARTICULAR NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WHICH ARE BASED ON NEW APPLICATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES. THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS MAY LEAD TO SUCH A REQUIREMENT.

SUCH A CONDEMNATION AND REQUEST TO THE CCD MIGHT USEFULLY BE EMBODIED IN A RESOLUTION AT THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. UNQUOTE

10. COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. ON QUESTION OF CNP, UK REP SAID THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN OUTLINE OF THE TOTAL DISARMAMENT TASK FACING THE WORLD COMMUNITY, BUT THAT THIS MUST NOT BE TREATED LIKE THE BUILDING OF A WALL, REQUIRING EACH BRICK TO ADHERE TO A RIGID AND LIMITED PATTERN.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION. UK REP INDICATED SATISFACTION AT MAY 18 SIGNATURE OF ENMOD CONVENTION BY 34 COUNTRIES CALLED FOR FURTHER SIGNATURE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR THE CONVENTION'S EARLY ENTRY INTO FORCE.

12. UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD). UK REP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SSOD, SCHEDULED FOR MAY-JUNE 1978, WILL BE WIDELY ATTENDED, PARTICULARLY BY ALL MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT POWERS. UK REP SAID THAT SSOD SHOULD SEEK TO REACH AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT MEASURES, INCLUDING AN INDICATION OF PRIORITIES, AND THAT THE RESULT SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN CCD AND IN OTHER FORA.

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